

# THE GREAT FLOOD

## KEY TO THE ENIGMA OF ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS?

*Did  
The Deluge  
originate  
from  
Antarctica?*

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*The 12th Planet; The Stairway to  
Heaven; The Wars of Gods and  
Men; The Lost Realms; Genesis  
Revisited; When Time Began* (1993)

The premise of Ancient Astronauts—that Earth has been visited in antiquity by intelligent beings from somewhere else—has come a long way. It started some decades ago with trailblazers who pointed at circumstantial evidence, in effect asking the reader "Who else but...?" kind of questions: who else but someone with a much more advanced knowledge could have built the Giza pyramids, and so on. Scepticism, as we all know, remained.

In my own writings, I felt that we will not convince the sceptics, perhaps not even those inclined to 'believe', unless one begins to come up with answers to several simple but specific yet inescapable questions.

If the Earth had indeed been visited in the past by ancient astronauts,

- from where have they come here?
- when have they come here?
- why have they come here? and
- did they come and go, did they leave, are they coming back?

The evidence for my writings (six books by now) comes from archaeological discoveries, ancient writings and depictions, and the veracity of the Bible. Australia and New Zealand, at first glance, seem remote from the sites, be they in the Old World or the New World, where those discoveries have been made. Yet, as will become clear in the course of this article, a major event involving ancient astronauts, their planet, their stay on Earth—and with the fortunes of the human race—had taken place right in your part of the world, literally next door to you!

This major event—a great catastrophe, as a matter of fact—was the Great Flood, the Deluge, which is so vividly described in the Old Testament:

*On that day,  
all the fountains of the great deep burst open,  
and the sluices of the heavens were opened...  
And the Deluge was forty days upon the Earth,  
and the waters increased, and bore up the ark,  
and it was lifted up above the Earth.  
And the waters became stronger  
and greatly increased upon the Earth,  
and the ark floated upon the waters.*

The Deluge, memories of which exist in the tales ('mythologies') of all ancient cultures, has been thought of as a catastrophe caused by the unleashing of torrential rains. Teachers and preachers have embedded in our memory the vision of the opening of the 'sluices of heaven', following which it had rained and poured for forty days, until the face of the Earth was covered with waters; and only Noah and his ark were saved.

But this is not exactly what the record at hand—the biblical tale in the Book of Genesis—informs us.

The catastrophe began not with torrential rains from above, but with an avalanche of water from 'down under':

*On that day,  
all the fountains of the great deep burst open...*

And the waters did not just rise and rise as when it keeps raining; once the waters had swept over the face of the land, the Book of Genesis states:

*The waters began to go back  
from upon the land,  
coming and going back.  
And after one hundred and fifty days  
the waters were less;  
and the ark rested on the mounts of Ararat.*

These are descriptions of a great wave starting in the 'deep' part of the Earth, causing a sudden cooling of the atmosphere that led to heavy rains. In fact, it is a description of a tidal wave, eventually subsiding as the waters 'came and went back', until the ordeal was finally over.

What had caused, what could cause, such an Earth-engulfing tidal wave? In my book, *The 12th Planet* (first published in 1976 and since reprinted in 16 paperback editions), I have suggested that it was the sliding of the Antarctic ice cover into the ocean—an event that explains the abrupt end of the Ice Age some 12,000 years ago, the sudden climatic change to warmer and rainier climates and a marked rise in the level of the Earth's oceans and seas.

The point to be stressed here is this: the calamity that changed the course of events upon Earth emanated from Antarctica, next door to Australia and New Zealand!

### THE VERACITY OF THE BIBLE

The biblical tale, it is now known, is an abridged version of earlier and much more detailed texts from Mesopotamia. But, though brief, it retains some enigmatic portions of those earlier texts. It informs us that the time when the Deluge occurred was:

*When the sons of the gods  
cohabited with the daughters of man,  
and they bore children unto them.  
Those were the days, we are informed, when  
The Nefilim were upon the Earth;  
in those days and thereafter too.*

Who were these 'sons of the gods'? Why does the Bible call them (in the original Hebrew) Nefilim, once translated 'giants' but literally meaning 'those who had come down from Heaven to Earth'? And what role, hinted by the Bible, did they play in the momentous events of the Deluge and the saving of mankind's seed on Earth?

The puzzle began to unravel about 150 years ago. It was then that the notion that Greece had been the fountainhead of Western civilisation was giving way to the realisation that, in Egypt, an even greater civilisation had flourished for centuries, even millennia, before the Greeks even learnt to write. In Mesopotamia, European travellers had come upon remains that seemed to confirm the biblical tales of the great kingdoms of Assyria and Babylonia. But what about the biblical claim that all kingship and civilisation had begun in Mesopotamia, and not in Egypt? What

**Without a precedent, out of nowhere, there sprang out a civilisation that had great cities, high-rise temples, palaces, courts of justice, commerce, shipping, irrigation, metallurgy, mathematics, medicine ... (and) astronomy.**

about the biblical claim that there had existed such unknown royal cities as Erech and Ur (the birthplace of Abraham) even before Nineveh and Babylon?

This was what the Old Testament said. But—just as clever scholars ask today, "Where is the evidence for ancient astronauts?"—so did scholars ask a century and a half ago, "Where is the evidence that there was an Abraham? Where is the evidence that there was a place called Ur?"

The answer was provided by archaeology. In 1843, Paul Emile Botta conducted the first systematic excavation at a site near Mosul, in northern Iraq. It turned out to be the royal city of the Assyrian King Sargon II. A few years later, Henry Layard discovered ten miles away the remains of a majestic city; its tablets and inscriptions revealed that its name was Nineveh; it was the very same Assyrian capital that's mentioned in the Bible. Then, the remains of a city named Nimrud were found; and the scholars began to treat the biblical information with more respect, for Nimrod is mentioned in the Book of *Genesis* (Chapter 10), together with Nineveh and other ancient cities and ancient kingdoms. By 1914, when archaeologists led by Walter Andrae excavated Ashur, all these ancient cities mentioned in the Bible were found, one after the other!

As Assyria and Babylonia had come to life, scholars began to respect the veracity of the Bible. But the Bible also listed even earlier cities, and spoke of a land named Shin'ar as the very first place where mankind built cities after the Great Flood. And the scholars of a century ago asked themselves, "Could there really have been a civilisation, with royal cities and temples and palaces, with priests and kings—even before Assyria and before Babylonia?" And the possibility seemed amazing, for Assyria and Babylonia had already taken us back almost 4,000 years.

### THE SUMERIAN CIVILISATION

As we now know, this indeed was the case. The more the archaeologists went south in Mesopotamia, in the great plain between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, the older were the remains they dug up. More and more, they came upon inscriptions that were not in Assyrian or Babylonian, but in a strange language which was obviously older. The biblical city of Erech was found; and Ur was found, and other great cities. And as we now know, these were the remains of the civilisation referred to in the Bible as Shin'ar. Today we call that land Sumer.

The Sumerian civilisation takes us back almost six thousand years. I describe many aspects of this amazing civilisation in my book, *The 12th Planet*. Without a precedent, out of nowhere, there sprang out a civilisation that had great cities, high-rise temples, palaces, courts of justice, commerce, shipping, irrigation, metallurgy, mathematics, medicine; whose people included kings and priests, judges and doctors, dancers and musicians. And above all, a written language, scribes, schools, a literature, epic tales, poems. Every aspect of a high civilisation that we can think of had its 'first', its beginning, in Sumer.

But most amazing of all was the Sumerian knowledge in the field of astronomy. The astonishing fact is that all the principles of a spherical/ astronomy, which is the basis of modern astronomy, were inherited by us from the Sumerians. The concept of a celestial sphere, an axis, the plane of orbit, the circle of 360 degrees, the grouping of stars into constellations, the division of the skies into twelve houses of the zodiac—even the pictorial depiction of the zodiacs and their names—



A Sumerian commemorative cylinder seal, showing Enki (as the Serpent God) revealing the secret of the Deluge to Atrahasis (a son of Enki by a human mother). The device on the right may be a depiction of an ancient water clock. Atrahasis (the biblical Noah) had only seven days' notice of the impending catastrophe, and so had no time to lose in building his 'ark' to withstand the waters.

everything you can think of we find in the Sumerian astronomical tablets.

We learn at school that the first one to suggest that the Sun and not the Earth was in the centre of our planetary system was Copernicus, in 1543. Not so! There have been found Sumerian pictorial depictions that not only show the Sun (not Earth) in the centre—and show also all the planets we know of today (plus, as will be explained, one more). In many astronomical texts these planets were listed, named and described; and, called 'members of the Family of the Sun', they made up, together with Sun and Moon, a family of twelve.

The familiarity of the Sumerians, thousands of years ago, with all these members of the solar system is astounding. Until rather recently, we ourselves did not know that there were more planets beyond Saturn. Uranus was discovered in 1781. It may tell us something about our ignorance when we realise that, when Botta and Layard were discovering in Mesopotamia the tablets with all this astronomical information, we did not even know of the existence of Neptune; for Neptune was discovered only in 1846. And Pluto, the so-called outermost planet, was found not visually but mathematically only in 1930—less than fifty years ago. And yet, as one planetary list after another establishes, the Sumerians knew it all.

Indeed, when the NASA spacecraft Voyager-2 reached Uranus in 1986 and sent back the first close-up photos of the distant planet, I literally jumped out of my seat and shouted: "But that is exactly how the Sumerians described it 6,000 years ago!" And then, as Voyager-2 was due to encounter the even more distant Neptune in 1989, I wrote articles predicting that a bluish-green watery planet, with patches on its surface, will be found. I knew it in advance because that was how the Sumerians described Neptune, and I had quoted them in *The 12th Planet* (page 243 in the hardcover edition). I was, not to any surprise on my part, right.

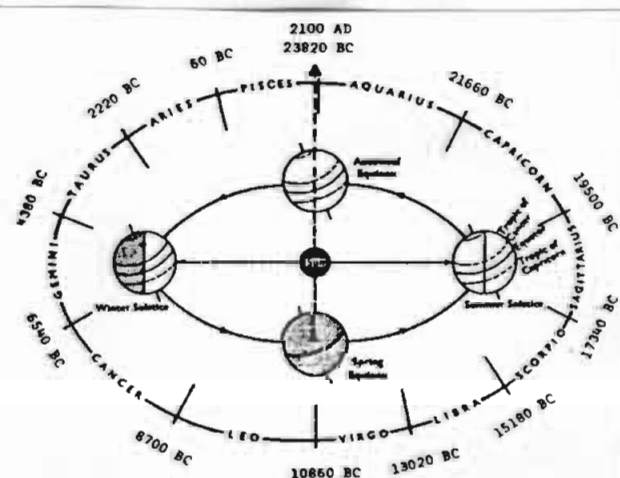
#### NEFILIM = ANUNNAKI = ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS

How possibly could have the Sumerians known all that, 6,000 years ago? How could such a high civilisation blossom out, as well scholars state, suddenly, unexpectedly, 'out of nowhere'?

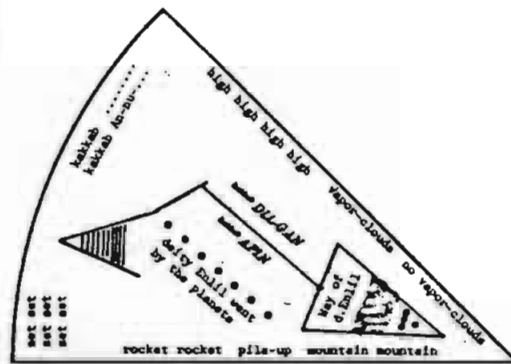
The Sumerians themselves provided the answer: all our knowledge, they wrote, was granted to us by the Anunnaki.

The word literally meant 'those who from Heaven to Earth came'. It was the very same meaning that the term Nefilim had meant in the Bible. These beings acquired the aura of being 'divine'; they were the 'gods' that were revered by all the nations in antiquity.

In text after text, in tale after tale, the Sumerians described how



The Precession of the Equinoxes was already known and followed in Sumerian times. The change from one fading zodiacal age to the start of another is the coming of a New Age.



Translation from a planisphere discovered in the ruins of the royal library of Nineveh. This segment, one of eight, shows the Anunnaki's flight path from Nibiru and how "deity Enlil went by the planets", seven in number, represented by dots. For the Sumerians, Enlil was "Lord of Seven". Earth was the seventh planet en route from Nibiru.

the Anunnaki—many of them specialised in another science or technology—taught mankind knowledge of agriculture, irrigation, the making of bricks, the building of houses and high-rise temples; of commerce and trade and navigation; of laws and running courts; of administration and kingship; of writing, and music, and arts. One text listed more than 100 of these various fields of knowledge that we even nowadays recognise as essentials of a modern civilisation.

The Sumerians listed, named and described these 'gods', showed them in numerous depictions, as often as not as winged pilots or in astronaut garb. They also depicted a variety of aircraft and spacecraft, indicating the various purposes and functions of these advanced vehicles.

Among the intriguing depictions of those astronaut-gods are some that pertain to a goddess of great fame in antiquity, Ishtar. In one instance she is shown wearing goggles and a helmet as though she were a World War I pilot, equipped with two panels extending, wearing goggles and equipped with some kind of panel extending from the back of her head. You can see the picture of a life-size statue, also of a female goddess, which clearly shows the pilot's helmet she was wearing, the instrument box that was attached to the back of her head, and the hose extending from it. There are many texts concerning Ishtar and her sisters, describing how they could fly in the Earth's skies—even describing in detail the seven pieces of special attire Ishtar had to put on before taking to the air.

The Egyptians, whose civilisation began some 700 years after the beginning of the Sumerian civilisation, were also familiar with those astronaut 'gods'. They called them Neteru, meaning 'guardians'. Among the many ancient depictions illustrated in my books is an Egyptian one showing what is undoubtedly a rocket-ship inside an underground silo; clearly seen are two beings manipulating hoses and instruments in a lower chamber that contains an instrument panel. Seen too is an upper compartment. The underground portions support a conical command module high enough to be above ground level.

Not only Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian and Egyptian texts confirm by literary means the existence and presence on Earth of those ancient astronauts, their vehicles and their facilities. Biblical tales, such as the 'dream' of Jacob, the skyward ascent of the prophet Elijah, or the spacecraft described by the prophet Ezekiel, serve as eyewitness reports.

#### NIBIRU—THE HOME PLANET

These ancient astronauts—for that is exactly who the Nefilim were—had come to Earth, the Sumerians said, from another large planet within our own solar system!

It is a planet, they wrote, which aeons ago invaded the solar system, and was captured into permanent orbit around the Sun. Its vast, elongated elliptical orbit takes it far away, beyond Pluto, but

then brings it back to Earth's vicinity as it passes between Mars and Jupiter.

The Sumerians were familiar not only with this extra planet in our solar system, but with all its members—the Sun, the nine planets we know of, the Moon which was deemed a celestial body in its own right, and the planet of the Nefilim. They called it Nibiru; the Babylonians called it Marduk; I have named it **THE TWELFTH PLANET**, for it completes the twelve-member solar system.

A long Mesopotamian text known as the *Epic of Creation* describes the appearance into our solar system when it was still young (say about 3.8 to 4 billion years ago), of an invader from outer space, a planet thrown off course by some calamity in its part of the universe. As it neared our outer planets (all named, all in the correct order!), it was pulled in by their gravitational forces. Finally, it met in a 'celestial battle'—a celestial collision—an older planet that existed between Jupiter and Mars, causing it to shatter. One half of that planet was cast into a new orbit, to become Earth; the other half was broken to bits and pieces to become the asteroid belt (between Jupiter and Mars), comets and meteors.

The invader itself—Nibiru ('planet of the crossing', whose symbol was the cross)—was caught in a vast elliptical orbit around the Sun, returning to Earth's vicinity and the 'scene of the battle' once every 3,600 Earth years.

Nibiru, the ancient texts assert, brought with it the 'seed of life', imparting it to Earth during the collision. It was thus that the same life forms evolved on both planets—much earlier on Nibiru than on Earth.

Circa 450,000 years ago, the Anunnaki/Nefilim came to Earth in search of gold. They needed it not for ornaments or coins, but for survival on their planet. Due to natural causes or because of environmental abuses they were losing their atmosphere, their inner-source heat. They needed gold in order to suspend gold particles as a shield above their atmosphere. The first group of 50 astronauts, led by a leader called Enki, splashed down in the waters of the Persian Gulf. They waded ashore and established the first settlement on the shores of the Gulf in what was later known as Sumer (today's southern Iraq). As more were needed, Enki's half-

brother Enlil also arrived to assume command. Some Anunnaki were sent to mine the gold in south-east Africa; when the toil became unbearable, Enki—a great scientist—'created' 'primitive workers' by mixing the genes of male Anunnaki with the eggs of early female hominids, bringing about *Homo sapiens*—'the Adam'—us, you and me...

And in time, the young male Anunnaki began to have sex with the daughters of the Adam, just as the Bible (and earlier Mesopotamian texts) relates. Enlil was angered by that. Knowing of the coming catastrophe—the Deluge—he decided that it would be an opportunity to get rid of mankind. The ancient texts (much more detailed than the Bible) describe how Enki frustrated the plan by alerting his faithful disciple Utnapishtim (the biblical Noah) and instructing him to build the ark and navigate it to Mount Ararat; thus was the seed of mankind saved.

#### THE DELUGE—A PREDICTABLE CALAMITY

What, then, was the Deluge?

It was a natural but foreseeable catastrophe. In Antarctica, the ice cap was growing during the last Ice Age. The weight made the billions of tons of frozen water ride upon a slippery layer of slush and mud. Any perturbation could cause this mass to slip off the continent and into the surrounding ocean—causing the greatest-ever tidal wave...

The Nefilim had found out that such a perturbation was about to occur. The twelfth planet was nearing its perigee, its passage between Mars and Jupiter. Its vast gravitational pull was beginning to affect Earth. And the Nefilim had no problem calculating when exactly the huge sheet of ice would slip off the Antarctic continent...

In preparation, they all gathered at their spaceport in Sumer—at a place called Sippar ('bird place'). As the sky was beginning to glow red, and the Earth began to shake, they took off in their shuttle craft. The Sumerian texts vividly describe the take-off, the orbit, the agony as the rank-and-file Nefilim viewed Sumer hit by a tidal wave rushing in from the south. In the words of the ancient scribe, the avalanche was

*Gathering speed, submerging mountains,  
Overtaking the people like a battle...*

And then, as the 'south storm' poured over,

*Stillness had set in;  
And all mankind had returned to clay.*

Thus had the last Ice Age ended, abruptly. But when the Nefilim landed back on Earth, they discovered that mankind's seed had not completely perished. They then persuaded Enlil to relent, and to bless mankind, and give it civilisation.

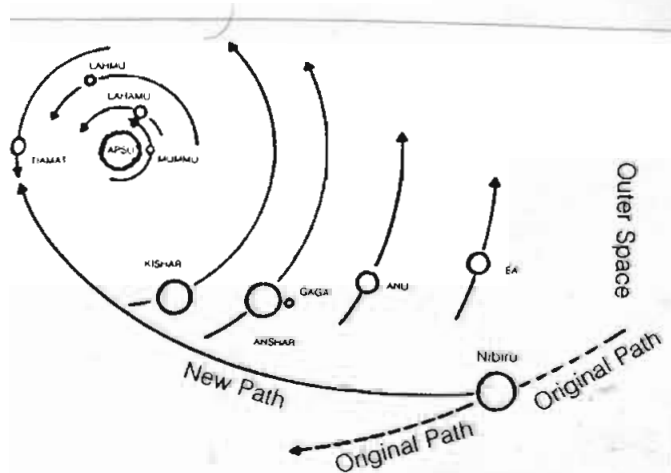
And, as the Bible tells it, the descendants of Noah had gone down to the plain of Shinar and built the cities of Sumer.

The story of the Deluge—universally recalled by the human race—is thus inextricably entwined with the ancient tales of the Anunnaki/Nefilim. The story of the Deluge is the story of man and 'gods', and falls apart unless the existence of Nibiru and the presence of Ancient Astronauts is acknowledged.

Some will still say that all these tales are 'myths', figments of the imagination; such doubters will have to explain the amazing Sumerian knowledge and the depictions of astronauts and spacecraft.

As far as I am concerned, if one believes in the Bible, one must believe in Ancient Astronauts. ∞

**These ancient astronauts  
—for that is exactly who  
the Nefilim were—  
had come to Earth,  
the Sumerians said, from  
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We know from the millennia-old *Epic of Creation* that Sumerian cosmogony had already envisioned other planetary systems and collapsing or exploding stars that threw off their planets. It was during the 'celestial battle', the ancient epic asserts, that the 'seed of life', brought by Nibiru from elsewhere, was passed to Earth.